Discussion between Sino-Indian expert groups on LAC

42. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert groups of India and China discussed issues relating to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) along the Sino-Indian border;

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion between India and China expert groups; and

(c) to what extent the border issues are likely to be solved between both the countries and within a time frame?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The 7th Meeting of the India-China Expert Group of Diplomatic and Military Officials (EG), which is a sub-group of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question, was held in New Delhi on November 24, 1999. The meeting discussed boundary-related issues including measures for confidence building along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border areas. The meeting also reviewed bilateral relations.

(c) The two sides are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the Joint Working Group. India and China have reiterated the objective of seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through dialogue. Both sides have reiterated their commitment to the Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along' the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Borders Areas (1993) and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas (1996) which provide an institutional framework for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas. The border areas have generally remained peaceful.